DAILY REPORT OF MINUTES

National Council of the Congregational Churches
Springfield, Mass.

Thursday Morning—Saturday Afternoon, Inclusive

October 18—20, 1923

ALSO DIGESTS OF THE MINUTES OF

THE EDUCATION SOCIETY

THE PUBLISHING SOCIETY

THE AMERICAN BOARD

THE MINISTERIAL BOARDS

National Council of the Congregational Churches at

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 18

ADDITIONAL

The Annual Meeting of the Congregational Education Society convened at 10 a. m. Thursday, October 18th, 1923, in the Municipal Auditorium, Springfield, Mass., Dean Brown presiding.

After prayer by Dean Brown the minutes of the last meeting, as printed in the "Grey Book," were declared approved.

The report of the Nominating Committee was received and by unanimous vote the secretary was instructed to cast the ballot for the following persons as named in the report of the Nominating Committee.

OFFICERS

President—Charles R. Brown, D. D., LL. D.
Vice-President—William Horace Day, D. D.
Recording Secretary—Rev. Frank M. Sheldon, D. D.
General Secretary—Rev. Frank M. Sheldon (on nomination of Board).
Treasurer—Arthur J. Crockett.

DIRECTORS

Term Expiring in 1929—A. J. Crockett, Mass.; Rev. Everett Kent, Mass.; Rev. Ashley D. Leavitt, Mass.; Rev. Judson L. Cross, Mass.; Judge Alfred Coit, Conn., (on nomination of Extension Boards); Prof. R. S. Smith, Mass.; Edwin A. Stockin, Mass.; Rev. O. A. Petty, Conn.

Term Expiring in 1925—J. W. F. Davies, D. D. Ill. (to confirm ad interim election to succeed C. W. Davidson; Mrs. Anne Barrows Seelye, Mass. (to succeed S. A. Norton, resigned).

Term Expiring in 1927—Rev. A. W. Bailey, Rhode Island (to confirm ad interim election).

CORPORATE MEMBERS AT LARGE

Term Expiring in 1929—Charles R. Brown, D. D., Conn.; Chas. W. Bond, Mass.; E. D. Eaton, D. D., Mass.; Rev. Horace Holton, Mass.; Prof. L. A. Weigle, Conn.; Wm. Horace Day, D. D., Conn.

On presentation of Secretary Sheldon the following resolution was adopted:

This Society hereby appoints the Commission on Missions of the National Council as a committee of this Society authorized and directed to represent this Society in the initiation and direction of the common appeal of the Congregational missionary societies to the Congregational churches and their members for the support of the missionary work of these societies and with the duty of correlating and coordinating the individual promotional work of this Society with similar promotional work on the part of the other societies and with gregational organizations of the several states.
the common promotional work of all the societies and with the Con-

Upon recommendation of Secretary Sheldon, the following resolution was adopted.

That the budget of the Commission on Missions for common promotion be approved by the Congregational Education Society for an amount not to exceed $141,000.00 for 1924 and not exceed $150,000.00 in 1925, exclusive of any amounts which may be expended by state and local organizations out of their own funds—the same to be assessed upon the several National causes in proportions to be determined by the Commission on Missions.

It was voted that the meeting adjourn to convene again at the call of the chairman.

Meeting adjourned.

Immediately at the close of the annual meeting of the Congregational Education Society on October 18th, 1923, the annual meeting of the Congregational Publishing Society was called to order by Dean Brown.

It was voted that the secretary cast the ballot for the officers, directors and corporate members, as named by the Nominating Committee. The following officers, members of the Board of Directors and corporate members were therefore declared elected.

OFFICERS

President—Charles R. Brown, D. D., LL. D.

Vice-President—William Horace Day, D. D.

General Secretary—Rev. Frank M. Sheldon (on nomination of Board).

Recording Secretary—Rev. Frank M. Sheldon, D. D.

Treasurer—Arthur J. Crockett.

DIRECTORS

Terms Expiring in 1929—A. J. Crockett, Mass.; Rev. Everett Kent, Mass,; Rev. Ashley D. Leavitt, Mass.; Rev. Judson L. Cross, Mass.; Judge Alfred Coit, Conn., (on nomination of Extension Boards); Prof. R. S. Smith, Mass.; Edwin A. Stockin, Mass.; Rev. O. A. Petty, Conn.

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CORPORATE MEMBERS AT LARGE

Term Expiring in 1929—Charles R. Brown, D. D., Conn.; Chas. W. Bond, Mass.; E. D. Eaton, D. D., Mass.; Rev. Horace Holton, Mass.; Prof. L. A. Weigle, Conn.; Wm. Horace Day, D. D., Conn.

Following the business sessions of these two societies, short addresses were made by Prof. Luther A. Weigle, Mr. Arthur J. Crockett, Dr. Frank M. Sheldon, and Dean Charles R. Brown.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING, OCTOBER 18

Beginning at 12.45 P. M. the Council took a half-holiday automobile trip, which the Springfield Committee had planned for this time. The itinerary included a visit to Mt. Holyoke, Amherst, Massachusetts Agricultural and Smith Colleges with a view of President Coolidge's home in Northampton en route, and a complimentary dinner by courtesy of the Second Church at Holyoke in their magnificent new edifice. Following the dinner the Council covened in Second Church and heard addresses by Dean W. L. Sperry of Harvard Divinity School and Professor Benjamin W. Bacon of Yale Divinity School.

Simultaneously with the Holyoke session of the Council there was held in First Church, Springfield, a public meeting which was addressed by Rev. Frederick Lynch, Editor of Christian Work, New York, and Rev. George Irving, of Y. M. C. A. International Committee, of New York.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Friday was devoted to the 114th Annual Meeting of The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. A digest of the minutes as submitted by the Recording Secretary of the American Board is hereby appended:

The A. B. C. F. M. convened in its 114th Annual meeting, in connection with the National Council of Congregational Churches, in the Municipal Auditorium, Springfield, Mass., Friday, October 19, 1923 at 9 o'clock, A. M.

The program of addresses by Officers and Missionaries of the Board was carried out as announced.

Corporate members were elected as follows:

Class A—Members of the National Council

All members of the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States who have been elected and are certified as members of the said National Council, for the term beginning in 1923, are hereby presented for election as Corporate Members of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions for a term of four years.

Class B—Members at Large (for six years)

*Nominated for re-election

Rev. Charles F. Aked, Kansas City, Mo.; *Prof. Louis F. Anderson, Walla Walla, Wash.; *Rev. James L. Barton, Boston, Mass.; *Prof. Harlan P. Beach, New Haven, Conn.; Rev. Charles H. Beale, Milwaukee, Wis.; *Dr. E. H. Bigelow, Framingham, Mass.; *Prof. Edward I Bosworth, Oberlin, O.; *Rev. Charles R. Brown, New Haven, Conn.; *Hon. William R. Castle, Honolulu, Hawaii; *Mr. James E. Clark, Newton, Mass.; *Mr. Wm. H. Crosby, Eggertsville, N. Y.; Mr. H. A. DuBois, Cobden, Ill.; *Rev. Edward D. Eaton, Wellesley, Mass.; *Rev. George A. Gordon, Boston, Mass.; *Mr. Charles E. Harwood, Upland, Calif.; Mr. Moses B. Hazeltine, Prescott, Ariz.; *Mr. Harry W. Hicks, New York, N. Y.; *Rev. J. S. Hindley, Ashtabula, O.; *Rev. A. N. Hitchcock, Chicago, Ill.; *Rev. Charles E. Jefferson, New York, N. Y.; *Mr. John G. Jennings, Cleveland, O.; *Mr. Clarence H. Kelsey, Orange, N. J.; *Rev. Oscar E. Maurer, New Haven, Conn.; Mr. John M. McKershey, Detroit, Mich.; *Rev. Irving W. Metcalf, Oberlin, O.; *Prof. Edward C. Moore, Cambridge, Mass.; Rev. Milo H. Pearson, Auburn, Me.; *Judge John H. Perry, Southport, Conn.; *Rev. Henry H. Proctor, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. Wilfrid A. Rowell, Hinsdale, Ill.; *Rev. Frank K. Sanders, New York, N. Y.; *Mr. William Shaw, Boston, Mass.; *Dr. John J. Thomas, Youngstown, O.; *Mr. F. H. Tuthill, Chicago, Ill.; *Mr. Samuel Usher, Cambridge, Mass.; *Prof. Edwin G. Warner, Brooklyn, N. Y.; *Mr. Franklin H. Warner, White Plains, N. Y.; *Mr. Herbert J. Wells, Kingston, R. I.; *Mr. John M. Whitehead, Janesville, Wis.; *Rev. Edward N. Williams, Northfield, Minn.

The following officers and committees were elected:

GENERAL OFFICERS

President—Edward C. Moore, D. D.

Vice-President—Mr. David P. Jones.

Recording Secretary—Oscar E. Maurer, D. D.

Assistant Recording Secretary—Rev. Edward W. Capen, Ph.D.

Auditors—Mr. Herbert J. Wells, Mr. Henry P. Kendall, Mr. W. W. Mills.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Corresponding Secretaries—James L. Barton, D. D., William E. Strong, D. D., Cornelius H. Patton, D. D.

Treasurer—Mr. Frederick A. Gaskins.

Assistant Treasurer—Mr. Harold B. Belcher.

Editorial Secretary—Rev Enoch F. Bell.

Associate Secretaries—D. Brewer Eddy, D. D., Rev. Ernest W. Riggs.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

For the Term Expiring 1926—Mr. Charles S. Bates, Arthur H. Bradford, D. D., Mr. Charles S. Olcott, Shepard Knapp, D. D.

The Treasurer presented his report showing that the special financial appeal of the Board had been so successful that the estimated

deficit for the year of $95,000 had been reduced to $63.47 at the close of the fiscal year.

The following resolution, introduced by Secretary Riggs for the Prudential Committee was adopted:

1. The American Board recognizes and accepts its unique responsibility for Missionary work in Turkey and proposes to carry it forward as rapidly as circumstances permit.

2. The American Board recognizes and accepts its responsibility toward the refugees from Turkey now in Greece, Syria and the Caucasus. It proposes to continue its aid in maintaining the moral and spiritual ideals of these stricken people in their exile.

3. The American Board commends the earnest faith and courage of its Missionaries in the Near East which prompts them to plan for a large advance both among the peoples of Turkey and the exiles. While it is not practicable to carry out these plans fully at present, the Board recognizes the work as established and important, as equally worthy of consideration as that in any of its mission fields.

The Business Committee presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

1. This Board hereby appoints the Commission on Missions of the National Council as a Committee of the Board, authorized and directed to represent this Board in the initiation and direction of the common ~~official~~ appeal of the Congregational Missionary Societies to the Congregational Churches and their members for the support of the missionary work of those Societies, and with the duty of correlating and co-ordinating the individual promotional work of this Board with similar promotional work on the part of the other Societies, and with the common promotional work of all Societies, and with the Congregational organizations of the several states.

2. *Resolved:* That the budget of the Commission on Missions for common promotion be approved for an amount not to exceed $141,000, for 1924 and not to exceed $150,000 in 1925, exclusive of any amounts which may be expended by state and local organizations out of their own funds, the same to be assessed upon the several national causes in proportions to be determined by the Commissions on Missions.

After a spirited discussion of the financial situation confronting the Board, it was

Voted: That the Board request the National Council to call on the Congregational Churches of the country to raise the vitally necessary $5,000,000 budget and to request the Commission on Missions to call

on the state conferences and church organizations to secure three thousand additional gifts of $500. each, preferably by the end of 1923.

As an evidence of their good faith various persons thus voting, pledged $7650 in varying amounts, to apply on the total apportionment for 1923.

The meeting adjourned at 9.30 P. M. o'clock.

Attest,
OSCAR E. MAURER
Recording Secretary
A. B. C. F. M.

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 20

The business session convened promptly at 9 o'clock on the call of the Moderator.

The minutes of the Council were approved as printed thus far Secretary Merrit E. Farren of the Boston Seaman's Friend Society addressed the Council.

On report of the Nominating Committee the following appointments were made:

Members of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

Rev. Charles E. Burton, N. Y. (also member of Administrative Committee); Rev. R. H. Potter. Conn. (also member of Executive Committee); Rev. W. H. Day, Conn. (also member of Executive Committee); Rev. F. L. Fagley, N. Y. (also member of Executive Committee); Mr. W. B. Davis, N. Y.; Col. J. T. Axton, D. C., Mrs. Franklin H. Warner, N. Y., Rev. J. R. Nichols, Ill., Rev. R. W. Gammon, Ill., Rev. Chauncey Hawkins, Wash., Rev. D. F. Fox, Cal., Rev. H. P. Dewey, Minn., Rev. Irving Maurer, Ohio; Rev. A. Z. Conrad, Mass., Mr. David P. Jones, Minn., Rev. Chester B Emerson, Mich., Rev. H. H. Proctor, N. Y., Pres. W. J. Moulton. Maine, Mr. Rolfe Cobleigh, Mass., Rev. Russell H. Stafford, Mo., Mrs. Frank Ferry, Ill., Mr. F. B. Smith, N. Y.

For Membership on the Commission on Missions

Representing Southern California—Mr. Fred M. Wilcox.

For Members of the Executive Committee of the National Council to Serve for Six Years

Rev. W. E. Barton, Ill., John H. Perry, Conn., Rev. J. N. Pierce, D. C.

On motion of Rev. W. E. Barton it was

Voted: That the National Council approve the general recommedations of the Commission on polity with reference to the Corporation for the National Council and the Executive Committee, and without directing an identity of membership in two, favors an interlocking membership and a close interlocking of the work of the two bodies.

The vote for Secretary of the National Council for two years of Rev. Charles Emerson Burton, New York, and for Treasurer of the National Council for two years of Mr. Franklin H. Warner of New York was taken in due form according to ballot. The scribes were authorized to cast one ballot as printed.

The Commission on Polity recommended the following changes in the By-Laws; notice of such changes having been duly given:

1. Add to By-Law XI, article I:

The Moderator of the National Council shall be Ex-officio, a member of the Commission on Missions.

2. Add to By-Law IX.

There shall be in each biennium at least one meeting of Chairmen of Commissions with the Executive Committee of the National Council, at which time reports of progress from each Commission shall be made to the Executive Committee and plans pursued under its general direction, except when the powers of the Commissions are already defined by the Council.

3. In By-Law X, Article 2, section B, change the nomenclature so as to omit the words "Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, 18 and insert "Congregational Publishing Society 18 and the Congregational Sunday School Extension Society 18."

The Committee on Resolutions announced a public hearing at 5 P. M.

Voted: To take up the report of the Committee on Commissions at 11.15 A. M. and that items scheduled for that hour be transferred to the business session as set for Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

On report of the Business Committee the following recommendations were adopted:

1. Concerning Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life

At the request of the Commission on Evangelism, the Business Committee recommends that the Council instruct its Commission on Missions to provide in such a way as seems best a budget of $15,000 per year for the Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life, and that such funds be expended under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the National Council; and that the treasurer of the National Council serve as the treasurer of the Commission.

The Business Committee further recommends the adoption by the Council of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth recommendations of the Commission on Evangelism as printed on pages 47 and 48 of the "Grey Book."

2. Concerning the Commission on Men's Work

The Business Committee recommends that the Council express its gratitude to the Education Society for its co-operation through field representatives and for its financial support in providing secretarial assistance and funds for the publication of pamphlets and bulletins.

3. Concerning Recruiting and the Status of the Ministry

The Business Committee recommends that the Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission on Recruiting and Status of the Ministry, numbered 2, 3, 4 and 5, as printed on Page 158 of the "Grey Book."

On recommendation of the Business Committee and as amended by motion presented by Secretary Burton, it was:

Voted: That we refer to the Commission on Polity a careful consideration of the whole question of reversionary clauses in deeds to church property and that a report on this question be presented to this session of the National Council.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAW XII.

Amended By-Law XII. by changing paragraphs 1 and 2 to read as follows:

1. The Corporation for the National Council shall consist, after the meeting of the Council in 1925, of fifteen persons, elected by the Council, and of the Moderator and Secretary Ex-officio.

2. The terms for which corporate members are elected shall be six years except that the Council, or its Executive Committee between Councils, may fill vacancies for the unexpired term.

Provided however that the Council of 1925 shall elect five members for two years, five members for four years and five members for six years. In electing the six members in 1925 and biennially thereafter at least two of the persons so elected shall be persons not then members of the Corporation.

As a part of the morning session the Annual Meetings of Ministerial Boards were held with Mr. Lucius R. Eastman, President, in the chair. Reports of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund Commission, The Aunnity Fund for Congregational Ministers and the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief were made by Rev. Chas. S. Mills, General Secretary.

On motion the recommendation of the Pilgrim Fund Commission that the further work of the P. M. F. be committed to the Trustees of the Annuity Fund was adopted and the report accepted.

It was reported that the Trustees of the Annuity Fund for Con-

gregational Ministers and the Directors of the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief acting in accordance with the authority given them at the last meeting of the National Council had adopted the informed title of "The Ministerial Boards" with the approval of the Corporation for the National Council and the Commission on Missions, it being understood that the Corporations of the Annuity Fund and the Board of Relief remain as hitherto.

It was further reported that under this organization an Executive Committee of twenty was created including the Directors of the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief and the Trustees of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers and five members at large to be elected by the National Council.

It was accordingly voted to direct the Nominating Committee to nominate said Executive Committee of the Ministerial Boards.

In accordance with the report of the Annuity Fund on pages 142-143 of the "Grey Book" the proposed arrangement for comity with the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. was unanimously ratified.

The report of the Annuity Fund was adopted.

In accordance with the report of the Board of Ministerial Relief pages 134-135 of the "Grey Book," the arrangement for comity with the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. in the administration of Ministerial relief was unanimously adopted.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. This Society hereby appoints the Commission on Missions of the National Council as a committee of this Society authorized and directed to represent this Society in the initiation and direction of the common appeal of the Congregational missionary societies to the Congregational churches and their members for the support of the missionary work of these societies and with the duty of correlating and coordinating the individual promotional work of this society with similar promotional work on the part of the other societies and with common promotional work of all the societies and with the Congregational organizations of the several states.

2. RESOLVED: That the budget of the Commission on Missions for common promotion be approved for an amount not to exceed $141,000 for 1924, and not to exceed $150,000 in 1925 exclusive of any amounts which may be expended by state and local organizations out of their own funds—the same to be assessed upon the several national causes in proportions to be determined by the Commission on Missions.

Officers were elected as follows:

For Six Years—Rev. Charles F. Carter, Conn.; Mr. B. H. Fancher, New York; Rev. Howard D. French, New York; Mr. John G. Jennings, Ohio; Rev. Lewis T. Reed, New York.

For Four Years (to fill unexpired terms)—Mr. Lucius R. Eastman, New Jersey; Mr. Harry M. Pflager, Missouri.

For the Executive Committee of the Ministerial Boards—(1) The Directors of the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief and the Trustees of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers as follows: Rev. Charles F. Carter, Conn.; Mr. H. G. Cordley, New Jersey; Mr. Lucius R. Eastman, New Jersey; Mr. B. H. Fancher, New York; Rev. Howard D. French, New York; Rev. Oliver Huckel, Connecticut; Mr. John G. Jennings, Ohio; Mr. Frederick B. Lovejoy, New Jersey; Rev. Oscar E. Maurer, Connecticut; Mr. Harry M. Pflager, Missouri; Rev. Lewis T. Reed, New York; Mr. Alanson H. Scudder, New York; Rev. Jay T. Stocking, New Jersey; Mr. Charles C. West, New Jersey; Rev. Clarence H. Wilson, New Jersey. (2) Also Five Members at Large: Rev. Asbury Krom, Rhode Island; Mr. James Lyman, Illinois; Mr. Walter B. Mossman, Massachusetts; Mr. Edward N. White, Massachusetts; Mr. George N. Whittlesey, New York.

The following persons, on nomination of the Nominating Committee, were approved as eligible for election as Trustees of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers:

Names Eligible for Election as Trustees of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers—Mr. Herbert J. Brown, Maine; Rev. Charles F. Carter, Connecticut; Mr. Winthrop M. Crane, Massachusetts; Mr. Clayton E. Freeman, New Jersey; Rev. Howard D. French, New York; Mr. John G. Jennings, Ohio; Rev. Asbury Krom, Rhode Island; Mr. James Lyman, Illinois; Mr. Albert M. Lyon, Massachusetts; Mr. Walter B. Mossman, Massachusetts; Mr. H. C. Pearson, New Jersey; Mr. Harry W. P. Pflager, Missouri; Mr. George W. Reynolds, New Jersey; Mr. Herbert B. Sexton, New Jersey; Rev. Alfred G. Walton, Connecticut; Mr. Lewis S. Welch, Connecticut; Mr. Edward N. White, Massachusetts; Mr. George N. Whittlesey, New York.

It was announced that since the last meeting of the National Council seventy-four pensioners had died. Prayer was then offered by Wm. A. Rice, D. D., for all upon the roll of the Board and for families bereaved by death.

Addresses were then delivered by General Secretary Charles S. Mills, President Lucius R. Eastman, Financial Secretary Wm. T. Boult, Actuary George A. Huggins and Directors Rev. Oscar E. Maurer and Rev. Lewis T. Reed.

On recommendation of the Business Committee the docket was amended as follows: That sectional meetings scheduled for Monday morning be convened in places specified at 8.30 instead of 9.00; that at 10.30 all voting delegates gather in the Municipal Auditorium for a business session of the Council. One of the special items of this session is to be a discussion of the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

It was announced that Mr. Franklin Warner, Treasurer of the National Council, was ready to issue checks for refund mileage to delegates from states that have contributed for this purpose.

The recommendations in the report on the Committee on Commissions as already printed were taken up separately and amended and adopted as follows:

1. To include—each corresponding member shall be notified of the meetings of the Commission and such corresponding members as attend may vote.

3. Name of Commission to be "Commission on International and Inter-racial relations and the Near East Relief."

5. That the Commission on "Recruiting of the Ministry" be continued.

6. That the "Men's Work Commission" be continued for biennium.

Added—That the "Commission on Evangelism and the Devotional Life" be continued as now constituted.

A recess was ordered taken until 1.45 P. M.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The meeting was called to order promptly at 1.45 by the Moderator.

A motion that the Commission on Moral and Religion Education be discontinued and that its work be assumed by the Education Society prevailed.

Following this action the entire report of the Committee on Commissions was adopted as amended by vote upon the individual items.

By vote of the Council Rev. Robert E. Speer, President of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, was made a corresponding member of the Council.

One of the general themes of the afternoon session was "The Mind of Christ for Church Union and Co-operation" introduced by Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, of New York, Chairman of the Commission on Comity, Federation and Unity.

President Frank K. Sanders, of New York presented the following resolution which was adopted:

That the plan of organic union contained in the Cleveland Overture be approved as the basis of further negotiations, and that the National Council instruct its Commission on Comity, Federation and Unity to meet and confer with any Commission that shall be appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., to which body the same memorial is addressed, and this with the express hope that some plan for the organic union of these two churches may be arrived at and presented to the next meeting of the Council.

Upon the motion of President Sanders the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas: The National Council in its declarations on Unity in 1871 and in 1913 expressed the deep and unfeigned interest of our and

Whereas: The independent action of our brethren in Canada and the steady growth of united activities in such practicable and visible forms as appear in the work of the Federal Council of Churches, the Foreign Missions Conference, the Home Missionary Council and the organizations already operative in several cities for the prevention of competition in the establishment of new churches, not only indicate the feasibility of Christian Union, but illustrate certain methods immediately available, and

Whereas, our times call for a further integration of Christian forces and our Conferences and Associations by an overwhelming vote have expressed their sympathy with the Plan of Union submitted to them by the last National Council,

Be it Resolved:

That the National Council of Congregational Churches approves in substance the Plan of Union proposed by the American Council of Organic Union, and

That this action be communicated to the other Church bodies associated in the movement in the hope that they may also approve and enter into the Plan, and,

That the Commission on Comity, Federation and Unity, acting under the authority of the Council through its Executive Committee, be authorized to represent this Council in such conference and correspondence as shall seem to them practicable and wise.

A motion made by Dr. Newman Smyth that Concordat be laid on the table was seconded by Rev. Wm. E. Barton and unamimously carried.

On motion of Rev. Wm. E. Barton, seconded by Dr. Newman Smyth it was unamimously voted that so much of the "Additional Statement" of the Commission as relates to the Concordat be added to the report of the Commission and be approved, and that the remainder of the reprint relating to the Lambeth Appeal be referred to the Commission on Federation, Comity and Unity to be named by this Council.

On motion the report of the Commission as a whole was adopted.

The following statement presented by Rev. Wm. E. Barton, was on motion adopted as the expression of this Council:

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

A Declaration Presented by Rev. William E. Barton, D. D. and Adopted by the National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States, October 20, 1923

The Congregational Churches of the United States, by delegates in National Council assembled, viewing with sorrow the sectarian

divisions existing in Christendom, and earnestly desiring that in the midst of a divided and hostile world, there may be a friendly and united Church, hail with unfeigned joy every indication of approach to union in the visible body of Christ. Believing that in the present condition of opinion in the Church and in the world, a declaration of our own position as a branch of the Holy Catholic Church will have value both in preventing futile and ill-advised attempts at impossible and undesirable approaches to forms of uniformity without the spirit of oneness in Christ, and also in furthering every feasible approach toward an outward and visible expression of the unity of the Spirit which underlies all denominational differences, hereby set forth our historic and present attitude toward the unity of the Church of Christ.

I. We believe that the basis of all Christian unity is unity in the Spirit of Christ; and that all men who are in Christ are one, and are members of the Holy Catholic Church, however wide and deep may be their apparent separation in race, nationality or history in rite or ceremonial or creed. We believe that all external unity if valid must inhere in this fundamental unity. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling."

II. The Congregational Churches believe and affirm that they are true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ with a valid, apostolic, prophetic and priestly ministry; and we cannot recognize in any organization a more valid ministry or a higher ecclesiastical authority than that which we possess as a branch of the Holy Catholic Church. This faith, however, we hold in the broadest catholicity, affirming with those who established this National Council.—

"As little as did our fathers in their day, do we in ours make pretentions to be the only churches of Christ. We find ourselves consulting and acting together under the distinctive name of Congregationalists, because, in the present condition of our common Christianity, we have felt ourselves called to ascertain and do our own appropriate part of the work of Christ's Church among men. We especially desire, in prosecuting the common work of evangelizing our own land and world, to observe the common and sacred law, that in the wide world of the world's evangelization, we do our work in friendly co-operation with all those who love and serve our common Lord. We believe in the Holy Catholic Church. It is our prayer and endeavor that the unity of the church may be more and more apparent, and that the prayer of our Lord for His disciples may be speedily and completely answered and all be one; and that by consequence of this Christian unity in love, the world may believe in Christ as sent of the Father to save the world."

III. We stand ready to meet any aproach toward closer visible union with other branches of the Christian Church upon a level plane

of mutual good will and mutual recognition of prerogative. We will meet any duly constituted church of Jesus Christ with full recognition of its authority and of the validity of a ministry ordained with intent to convey authority, to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances of the church in accordance with the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will and do receive members from other churches as we receive them from our own churches. We will not and do not call common that which God hath cleansed, nor deny spiritual efficacy where God has manifested His Spirit. We hold i nhonor the name by which this group of churches has come to be called, a name descriptive of our form of government; but we will hold to no distinctive name if by mutual abandonment of denominational titles we may be permitted without apparent arrogance or misrepresentation to resume the name by which our churches historically were called, The "Churches of Christ" in their several localities. We hold dear certain forms in which we are accustomed to confess our faith, but we have never used and will never use a creed for purposes of division or exclusion.

We cannot by the abandonment of our name or the disregard of our historic symbols effect immediate union with other branches of the Church of Christ. But we are ready to go forward as the Spirit of Christ shall lead us, into the larger unities of the Kingdom of God.

As we cannot permit creeds to be imposed upon us, so we will impose no divisive creeds upon others. We will seek not every church its own things, but every church also the things of others. This only will we ask, and this we freely offer that unitedly we will confess and serve our common Lord, and love one another as He gave us commandment.

And if this vision tarry, even now and until it is fully come, will we live in the spirit and hope of its accomplishment. We will refrain from plantng new churches that must compete with Christian churches already organized. We will treat all Christians as Christians, and all Christian ministers as ministers of Christ, and all Christian churches as churches of the Lord Jesus Christ; we will pray for and seek to promote the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, to the honor of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ.

Concluding the first theme of the afternoon session President Robert E. Speer addressed the Council on the subject of "Practical Unity Through Co-operation."

The Moderator introduced Rev. E. D. Sanford, the first Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America who spoke briefly.

Greetings from the Church of South India were brought to the Council by Rev. John Chandler.

Rev. C. A. Voss of Pittsburgh, Pa. presented greetings from the Evangelical Protestant Churches of North America and spoke briefly on behalf of those churches and the delegation that accompanied him on the matter of possible union of that denomination with the Congregational Churches.

The afternoon program included addresses by Mr. Roger W. Babson of Massachusetts and Honorable Wayne B. Wheeler, Counsel for the Anti-Saloon League, the latter being introduced by Rev. W. A. Morgan of Washington, D. C., Chairman of the Commission on Temperance.

The following letter to the Council from the Congregational Union of England and Wales was read by the Moderator:

The Congregational Union of England and Wales
Memorial Hall, Torrington Street,
London, October 8th, 1923.

The Secretary,
National Council of the Congregational Churches of the U. S. A.,
Springfield, Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Sir: At the meeting arranged by the Temperance Committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales at the recent Assembly held at Northampton the following resolution, proposed by Sir Stephen Collins, and carried with great enthusiasm, was passed:

> "That the Ministers and Delegates of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, assembled at Northampton on October 4th, 1923, send greetings to the Christian Churches of America, and congratulate them on the success of their efforts in the cause of sobriety, and pray that God may enable them to continue the fight until the drink evil shall be removed from their beloved land."

It was further carried that a copy of this resolution should be sent to you. I hope it will reach you in time for your meetings at Springfield, so that you may stand in no doubt that we are in close touch with those same ideals of which the United States has given such a signal example.

With all heartiest greetings and good wishes for the success of your meetings.

Yours sincerely,

SIDNEY M. BERRY.

The second general theme of the afternoon session was "The Mind of Christ in the Life of the World." It was introduced by Rev. Nichols Van der Pyl of Ohio, Chairman of the Commission on Social Service. Addresses were made by Mr. Paul Blanshard, of Rochester, New York and Mr. Arthur Nash of Cincinnati, Ohio.

HANSON
PRESS
INC.